

Mobile Phones in Primary School Policy

Status	Statutory
Version	4
Responsible Directors' Board	Education and Standards Committee
Responsible Persons	Head of Safeguarding, Attendance and Behaviour
Date Policy Reviewed	August 2026
Next Review Date	August 2027
Academy to implement without Amendment, using appendix when required	



Summary of Changes from Previous Version

Version	Date	Author	Summary of Updates
V1	03.03.2024	Matt Copestick – Strategic Safeguarding Leader	New Policy
V2	August 2024	Head of Governance and Policy	Transfer to new template and reformat Updated to Executive Executive Principal/Principal/Executive Principal/Principal
V3	August 2025	Head of Safeguarding and Inclusion	Addition of subsection 3.3 – Data protection Addition of subsection 3.4 – Using personal mobile phones for work purposes Addition of subsection 3.5 – Work phones Update of subsection 4.1 – clarification of types of extreme misconduct using mobile phones Addition of section 5 – Parents/Carers, volunteers and visitors
V4	August 2026	Head of Safeguarding, Attendance and Behaviour	Updated to reflect new DFE guidance: 'Mobile Phones in Schools' – 2026 Section 3 - updated to include visitors and contractors Section 3 – added reference to 'phone-free' environment 4.1 – change of description of devices from 'prohibited' to 'banned'



Contents

1. Rationale.....	4
2. Roles and Responsibilities	4
3. The Use of Mobile Phones by Staff, Visitors and Contractors.....	4
3.1 Personal Mobile Phones	4
3.2 Safeguarding	5
3.3 Data protection.....	5
3.4 Using personal mobile phones for work purposes	5
3.5 Work phones	5
4. Use of Mobile Phones by Pupils	5
4.1 Pupils in Breach of this Policy	6
4.2 Communicating with parents/carers.....	6
5. Use of mobile phones by parents/carers and volunteers	6
6. Loss, theft or damage	7
7. Adjustments to this policy.....	7



1. Rationale

Exceed Learning Partnership recognise that mobile phones (including smart phones) and other electronic devices such as tablet computers and smart watches are an important part of everyday life in modern Britain. However, such devices can disrupt learning and create other issues such as cyber bullying.

Exceed Learning Partnership are committed to educating pupils on the specific risks associated with mobile phones (such as impact on mental health, and online safety).

This policy aims to:

- Make clear the Trust's position on mobile phones and other electronic devices in our primary academies
- Acknowledge the guidance 'Mobile Phones in Schools', Department for Education (2026)
- Provide guidance to staff to be positive role models for our children with regards to the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices
- Support the Trust's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy

2. Roles and Responsibilities

All staff (including teachers, support staff and supply staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy. Volunteers, or anyone else engaged by the Trust or our academies, must alert a member of staff if they have a concern that this policy is not being enforced or complied with.

3. The Use of Mobile Phones by Staff, Visitors and Contractors

Exceed Learning Partnership acknowledge that staff and other adults that come into contact with our pupils are role models for expected behaviour. Therefore, it is important to outline the main conduct expectations of staff with regards to mobile phones:

3.1 Personal Mobile Phones

Staff may need to use their personal mobile phone for work activity, such as using authentication applications.

Staff, visitors and contractors have a duty to ensure that personal phones are stored away from pupils, and are expected to act as role models for the expected 'phone-free' environment.

- Not making or receiving personal phone calls in areas where pupils are present
- Not taking photographs of children on personal mobile phones
- Advising their Line Manager or Executive Principal/Principal if there are circumstances during the academy day where they may need to make or accept calls via the main school office (e.g. their child or another dependent is unwell).

Staff who use their personal mobile phone, or other electronic device such as a tablet computer, for work email must have adequate protection in place to protect the sensitive data that email can contain, including a passcode of at least 6 digits long to unlock the device.

Should the device be lost or stolen, they must inform their Line Manager or Executive Principal/Principal at the earliest opportunity so that steps can be taken to ensure sensitive data from emails remains secure.



3.2 Safeguarding

As described in the Trust Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, staff must not use their mobile phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils or anything else which could identify a pupil. If it is necessary to take photos or recordings as part of a lesson/school trip/activity, this must be done using academy or Trust equipment. See the ELP Photo and Digital Media policy for further guidance.

3.3 Data protection

Staff must not use their personal mobile phones to process pupil data, or any other school information, including entering such data in to generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools.

3.4 Using personal mobile phones for work purposes

In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for staff to use personal mobile phones for work. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- Emergency evacuations
- Supervising off-site trips
- Supervising residential trips

In these circumstances, staff will:

- Use their mobile phones in an appropriate and professional manner, in line with our staff code of conduct
- Not use their phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, or anything which could identify a pupil
- Refrain from using their phones to contact parents/carers. If necessary, contact must be made via the school office or a designated 'work phone'

3.5 Work phones

Some members of staff are provided with a mobile phone by their academy or the Trust for work purposes. Only authorised staff are permitted to use work phones and access to the phone must not be provided to anyone without authorisation.

Staff must:

- Only use phone functions for work purposes, including making/receiving calls, sending/receiving emails or other communication using the internet
- Ensure that communication or conduct linked to the device is appropriate and professional, in line with our Staff Code of Conduct
- If work phones are lost, damaged or stolen, this must be reported to your line manager without delay.

4. Use of Mobile Phones by Pupils

Our Primary Academies are 'Phone Free'. This means that pupils' phones should not be seen, heard or used during the academy day. Pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones or other electronic devices (such as tablets and smart watches) with them to school. However, the Trust recognises that pupils and their families may rely on mobile phones as a safety measure where children travel to and from their academy independently. Where this



is the case, in line with the academies process for permitting children to travel to and from school independently, pupils may bring a mobile phone with them providing the following conditions are met:

- It is a day where the child is travelling independently.
- The mobile phone is switched off and handed over to the class teacher on arrival to school.
- The mobile phone is stored in a secure place, such as a locked drawer or cupboard or a locked 'cash tin'.
- The mobile phone is only returned to the child at the end of the academy day.

4.1 Pupils in Breach of this Policy

Pupil mobile phones and other electronic devices (such as tablets and smart watches) are banned items in our academies. Where pupils are in breach of the policy the following process should be followed:

- (If appropriate) a reminder of the conduct expectations and an opportunity to comply with the policy.
- Confiscation of the device and parents/carers advised. The device is then stored in a secure location away from the classroom such as the Executive Principal/Principal's office (in locked storage).
- The device is only returned to the parent or carer of the child, following a formal meeting with them and the academy.
- Sanctions, where necessary, may be issued in line with the school's Positive Relationships and Behaviour policy.

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. This conduct is taken extremely seriously and other agencies such as the police will be involved where necessary. This conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude or semi-nude images or videos)
- Upskirting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or text directed at someone on the basis of their ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

Staff should refer to the DFE guidance Searching, Screening and Confiscation (2022) for further advice if required.

4.2 Communicating with parents/carers

It is expected that Executive Principal/Principals write to families at least once a year to advise them of our expectations and routines with regards to mobile phones. Academies will also actively reinforce our expectations through the use of newsletters or parent forums throughout the year.

Where a pupil joins mid-year, parents should be advised of the academy's approach to mobile phones as part of the induction process.

Where there has been a breach of this policy by a pupil, the school must advise parents/carers at the earliest opportunity before the end of the school day.

5. Use of mobile phones by parents/carers and volunteers

Parents/carers and volunteers (including governors and contractors) must adhere to this policy as it applies to staff if they are in the academy during the school day.

This means:



- Not taking pictures or recordings of pupils (or anything that could identify a pupil), unless it is their own child
- Not using phones in lessons, or when working with pupils
- Complying with the ELP Photo and Digital Media policy

Parents/carers must use the school office as the point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day.

6. Loss, theft or damage

The Trust and its academies accept no responsibility mobile phones or other electronic devices (such as tablets and smart watches) that are lost, damaged or stolen on the school premises or transport, during school visits or trips or while pupils are travelling to and from school.

7. Adjustments to this policy

The Executive Principal/Principal may adjust this policy on a **case by case basis** where they deem this to be appropriate. Circumstances could include, but are not limited to, where a mobile phone is used for medical purposes (e.g. the tracking of blood sugar levels for a diabetic child).

The Head of Safeguarding and Inclusion for the Trust can provide additional guidance if required.

The academy Executive Principal/Principal must record on CPOMS the adjustments being made. They should also record a reason why these adjustments are in place, as well as the steps being taken to prevent the device causing disruption to learning or a safeguarding concern.

Policy reviewed: **August 2026**

Signed CEO:

Signed: Chair of Directors:

Policy to be reviewed in: **August 2027**